



**City Of San Diego  
COUNCILMEMBER JIM MADAFFER  
DISTRICT SEVEN**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**M-07-09-04**      Please refer to this number when responding to this memo

**DATE:**           Monday, October 08, 2007

**TO:**              Honorable Mayor Jerry Sanders

**FROM:**           Councilmember Jim Madaffer *Jim Madaffer*

**SUBJECT:**       Motorcycle Paramedics

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A recent trend among major cities for improving public safety is establishing Motorcycle Paramedic programs. Miami, Florida was one of the first cities to implement such a program and this service is now being studied in Pittsburgh, Seattle, San Francisco, New York, and parts of Texas. San Diego is very similar to these cities with regard to population and geography.

The following are benefits of the program as discovered through existing pilot programs:

- Reduced response times and increased patient survivability
- Pairs highly trained paramedics with specialized motorcycles that can respond faster through congested traffic specifically in the downtown areas
- Motorcycles are easier to navigate through heavy traffic than a large traditional unit
- Can be conducted as a 1 or 2 year pilot program with staff from the Fire Department who will undergo the training
- Specific shifts can be deployed during peak congestion times including freeway rush hour, weekend nights in the Gaslamp, crowded beach areas, or other communities as identified by the Fire Chief – staying on the road between calls gives them dynamic response during peak times
- Motorcycle Paramedics can serve as the "first responders" to initiate medical treatment and determine medical transport needs, keeping fire rescue units in service elsewhere available for other calls within their territories

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- Teams are able to provide early and increased access to AED's with opportunities to respond within the American Heart Association's recommended 3-5 minutes to administer a defibrillator/AED
- Provides better accessibility in tight areas than standard equipment with an average motorcycle width of 38 inches versus the average 10 foot width of a fire rescue truck
- Motorcycles are more fuel efficient than standard medic units and are less expensive to lease and maintain – we get more of them for our money
- Reduction of wear and tear to large fleet units
- Can provide increased service to major events or large disasters within the City
- Faster and can carry far more gear than existing bicycle paramedic units

I respectfully request that the consultant who will be writing the RFP for the City's upcoming paramedic contract include within the RFP the potential for such a program in San Diego. I further request that you have the Fire Department also look into the potential benefit of this program from a "first responder" standpoint. If we are ever going to consider a program like this given the upcoming round of paramedic discussions and upcoming labor negotiations, now is the time.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions please feel free to contact my office. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

JM/af

cc: City Councilmembers  
Chief Tracy Jarman  
City Clerk Liz Maland  
City Attorney  
San Diego City Firefighters Local 145  
San Diego Medical Services Enterprise